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AUTHOR Hauptman, Arthur M.; Merisotis, Jamie P.
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ABSTRACT

Rapid increases in college charges for tuitions, fees, and other costs of attendance are analyzed, through an examination of national data sources and case studies of individual institutions. Chapter 1 offers an overview of trends, assesses the causes of increasing college charges, and offers directions for additional research. Chapter 2 explores in more detail the major explanations for the rise of college charges, including: (1) colleges face increasing prices, (2) increased tuitions are paying for expanded services, (3) nontuition revenue sources are contracting, (4) student aid leads institutions to raise their charges, (5) competitive pressures have led to tuition increases, and (6) the decline in the traditional college-age group may be a crosscutting factor. Chapter 3 outlines future prospects for college tuition increases. The report concludes that a number of factors contribute to the college cost dilemma, and that distinctly different reasons and patterns emerge for the different sectors of higher education. Appendices contain basic data on trends in college charges and expenditures, and an annotated bibliography of 38 studies, reports, and data sources concerning college costs and prices. (JDD)

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